

# Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

September 28, 2006

## -----SPECIAL BUDGET ISSUE-----

### County Executive Walker's 2007 Budget Address

Presented to the Milwaukee County Board,  
September 28, 2006

*Chairman Holloway, members of the County Board, Sheriff Clarke, Clerk Ryan, fellow citizens of Milwaukee County: thank you for the opportunity to address you here today.*

*Later this morning, a valued member of our cabinet – John Hayes – will be going in for surgery. I ask that we take a moment to think of him and pray for a safe recovery.*

*During the year since my last budget address, our County Veterans Service Officer Domingo Leguizamon was deployed overseas as part of Iraqi Freedom. I ask that we remember him and the many others from Milwaukee County who are serving in our Armed Forces today. In their honor, we fly a Blue Star flag - much like this - in front of our courthouse.*

*Here in my hand is a piece of the old annex parking structure. After 36 years, that failing cement slab over the freeway is finally down. Amazing to many, there is a new view of the courthouse – a new vision, if you will – and people like it.*

*In a way, our budget also calls for us to tear down the broken pieces from the past and replace them with a new vision of hope for Milwaukee County.*

*For too many years, we've seen our seniors forced to move out of their homes because of rapidly rising property taxes. Now, we fear a similar trend with young families.*

For the rest of the speech, [click here](#)

### Walker Announces Budget Plan For Transit

County Executive Walker held a press conference on Monday to announce that, under his 2007 budget, all bus routes would be preserved. There will also be no change in the cash fare. The discount rate for many of the passes will be adjusted to reflect the increased cost of running the transit system. Walker said that he heard from many constituents who had said they would rather pay a bit more to ride the bus than have routes eliminated.

### Walker Announces Funding for County EMS Program



On Tuesday, Walker announced that he will fully fund the County's paramedic program in his 2007 budget. This will ensure that all of Milwaukee County's residents will have access to one of the top 5 paramedic programs in the country.

# Walker's Budget in Brief

## Taxes and General Budget

- 0% increase in property tax levy from previous year (5<sup>th</sup> straight budget with no levy increase)
- Total budget: \$232, 592,517 tax levy (total expenditures: \$1,263,292,227)
- No sales tax increase
- Overcame a \$89.9 million shortfall (largely driven by costs of pension, other retirement and health care benefits)

## Public Safety

- Increase funding for Parks Patrols
- Increase services and slots for programs to keep young people out of justice system
- Limit duplication of services with local police departments
- Fully fund the EMS system that provides paramedic service throughout the county

## Parks

- Push for the creation of an elected Park District
- Redesign aquatics system for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
  - Maintain 7 deep-well pools and Cool Waters
  - Build new aquatics center on north side of county
  - New season pass (\$10 for kids, \$15 for adults)
  - Build 6 new splash pads
  - Open Bradford and McKinley beaches through Adopt-A-Beach program
- Construct 21 new picnic areas
- Replace worn out playground equipment
- Funding for maintenance of parks facilities and trails

## Human Services

- Major initiative to promote quality housing for people with mental illness
  - New section dedicated to housing
  - On-site staff in supported apartments

- Partnership with Continuum of Care (COC)
- Prepare 10-year plan for housing
- Joint inspection program with the City of Milwaukee
- Dedicate 50% of CDBG funds to housing project
- Dedicate 50% of Affordable Housing Trust funds from Park East land
- New program to supervise child care centers within Milwaukee County
- Maintain support for GAMP – General Assistance Medical Program which provides safety need coverage for poor
- Additional assistance for people with disabilities
- Continue meal programs and senior centers
- Growth of Family Care program that provides long-term care

## Cultural Centers

- Maintain support for County Zoo
- Continue support for cultural attractions related to county

## Economic Development

- Add two Economic Development Specialists to assist in economic development and land sales
- Increase land sales to put assets to work for the county

## Transportation

- Continue improvements to General Mitchell International Airport
- Maintain all routes with transit system
- No increase in cash fare, but reduce discounts on passes

## Benefits

- Use Pension Obligation Bonds (POBs) to lower cost of pension liability
- Prepare for changes in health care costs through contracts
- Reduce number of positions by contracting out for services with lower fringe benefit rate (where it does not impact delivery of service)

You can read the entire budget at:  
[www.county.milwaukee.gov](http://www.county.milwaukee.gov)